The University of Texas ring was designed in 1996 by a committee of UT students. The ring, rich in symbolism, is a lifelong emblem of UT pride. It embodies academic achievement at the University, and is reserved exclusively for graduates and students who have completed at least 75 credit hours.

1. The top of the ring boasts a handsome version of the University of Texas seal, approved by the Board of Regents in 1905. The central feature is the shield, divided into two fields – orange and white, the University’s colors. In the lower field are the star and wreath of the State of Texas; in the upper field an open book, symbol of an institution of learning. The shield rests in a circle of blue, the color of sincerity. The Latin motto, “Disciplina Praesidium Civitatis,” is a quote from former Republic of Texas President Mirabeau Lamar: “Education is the safeguard of democracy.” Surrounding the disc of blue is a larger disc of red, the color of strength, bearing the words, “The University of Texas at Austin.”

2. On one side of the UT ring is another recognizable symbol: the University of Texas Tower. The Tower was completed in 1936, made from Indiana limestone, and rises 307 feet. The UT Tower has become the defining landmark on the campus, ever present for decades of campus life.

3. On the other side of the ring is a Longhorn, the mascot of the University. Associated with Texas and the West, the longhorn is a symbol of strength and determination. Bevo, the first live longhorn mascot, made his first appearance in 1916.

4. Scrolled around the outside of the longhorn is the phrase, “The eyes of Texas are upon you.” The song titled The Eyes of Texas made its debut in 1903. UT student John Lang Sinclair first scrawled the words on a scrap of brown laundry paper that is now on display in the Alumni Center.

5. Above the longhorn is the Texas Exes symbol. It was first used in 1967 to “brand” ex-students of the University returning to campus for an annual reunion known as Round-Up. On the ring, it signifies that the wearer is linked to the generations of University of Texas graduates.